

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 00582 060651Z
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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
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UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 0582

FOR: IAA, IOR/M, IBS AND IPS

PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEMPHIS SLIM AND MICHEL DENIS

1. AMERICA'S BLUES AMBASSADOR MEMPHIS SLIM OPENED HIS FIVE-CONCERT TOUR OF MADAGASCAR IN THE EASTERN PORT CITY OF TAMATAVE ON SUNDAY EVENING. THE CHIEF OF TAMATAVE PROVINCE AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES WERE AMONG THE 450 WHO APPLAUDED SLIM AND HIS DRUMMER DENIS. DESPITE THE PITIFUL SHAPE OF THE PIANO SLIM HAD TO CONTENT WITH IN THE HUMID COASTAL CITY, HIS SONGS WERE, AS THE "MADAGASCAR MATIN" OF THE FOLLOWING DAY PUT IT, "APPLAUDED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND FRENZY".

2. MONDAY EVENING FOUND THE DUO PERFORMING IN THE NORTHERN PORT CITY OF DIEGO-SUAREZ, WHERE SLIM AND DENIS PLAYED IN A NIGHTCLUB TO THE RAVES OF SOME 300 SPECTATORS.

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3. A TWO-HOUR LONG WORKSHOP AT THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER IN ANTANANARIVO ON TUESDAY WAS ATTENDED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF MALAGASY MUSICIANS AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. SLIM SAID THAT THE BLUES COVERED THE ENTIRE RANGE OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE AND THAT THE BLUES "C'EST LA VIE". IN A BRILLIANT DEMONSTRATION, HE PERFORMED A SERIES OF

"BLUES" WHOSE MUSIC AND LYRICS SPOKE OF LOVE AND HAPPINESS, PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS, SOCIAL SATIRE AND HUMAN DRAMA. MICHEL DENIS DISPLAYED HIS VIRTUOSITY AT THE DRUMS. SEVERAL YOUNG MALAGASY MUSICIANS PERFORMED THEIR COMPOSITIONS AND SONGS.

4. RADIO AND NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE TOUR, CO-SPONSORED BY THE CULTURAL CENTER AND THE LIONS CLUB, HAS SO FAR BEEN EXTENSIVE. SLIM AND DENIS WILL CLOSE OUT THEIR TOUR OF MADAGASCAR WITH A CONCERT THIS EVENING (WEDNESDAY) IN THE SOUTHERN COASTAL CITY OF TULEAR, AND WITH TWO CONCERTS - A GALA AND ONE FOR YOUTH - IN ANTANANARIVO ON THURSDAY EVENING AND FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

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